



BORIS THE SPIDER



"OH, WHAT A TANGLED WEB WE WEAVE
WHEN FIRST WE PRACTICE TO DECEIVE!"
--- SIR WALTER SCOTT ---

5 Apr 92

Vol 4, #1

3 Non-DIP Gamestarts!

Word is beginning to spread. We've gotten enough response to open DUNE, KREMLIN, and MAGIC REALM sections. All three of these could accommodate a few extra players without unduly disturbing those already enrolled so if we get anyone interested, the first two of each can join the KREM and DUNE games. MR could take six or seven before things get crowded.

Until we get a better feel for the work involved, we're going to limit the 'zine to 3 DIP sections, 2 1830 sections, 1 each 1835, DUNE, KREM, and MR, and maybe 2 or 3 GUNSLINGER sections. So, sign up while you can.

We had three people technically NMR this time--enough to delay all three games had I not resorted to phone calls. These situations are a real pain in the rump and are enough to make us want to throw in our publishers' towel. Which brings us to our next topic.

We need alternates! Do you have games languishing in your closet that you tried one or twice and never got the time to get back to? Here's your chance to learn by mail and not have to take the blame for losing! Blame it on the ^%#%\$& that NMR'd out and left you with the position. Great way to get your "feet wet".

As is evident to our hardcopy subscribers, our "new look" has been delayed again. This time a combination of graphic conversion and tight computer memory problems seem to have delayed things. But next time...

BORIS'S BBS

RON FISHER: I'd also like to pbm a board game or two. OIL WAR and BATTLE FOR GERMANY are my favorites by mail (plus I already have play aids) but I've a number of old SPI and AH games. Anybody play OGRE?

Thought for the Season: I have discovered the art of fooling diplomats: I speak the truth and they never believe me.

---Conte Camillo de Cavour

BOOS & KUDOS

This month's Madame Bolduc Press Excellence Award goes to Jack Shacklett for his *St Petersburg Peasant* article in BORIS V.

There will be no Ms Nar Super-Sudsy Bomb this month, but it's not nice to annoy Ms Nar with duplicate press.

BORIS IV

AUSTRIA INVADED!

In what looks like a coordinated attack, Russia and Italy have invaded disputed Austrian territory, purportively as reprisal for



Austrian incursions into SER and ALB respectively. The other powers have seized upon this opportunity for aggrandizement and have annexed or will annex several minor countries. It seems that Mars is beating his hypnotic wardrum again and the Powers are marching in lockstep to its beat. Good. The Chief Bug will be pleased.

AUS (Fryling): A Bud-Ser, A Vie-Bud, F Tri-Alb;
ENG (Shacklett): A Lpl-Edi, F Edi-Nrg, F Lon-Nth;
FRA (Rezzarday): A Mar-Spa, A Par-Bur, F Bre-Mid;
GER (J. Fisher): A Ber-Kie, A Mun-Ruh, F Kie-Hol;
ITA (Klausutis): A Rom-Ven, A Ven-Trl, F Nap-Ion;
RUS (Saunders): A Mos-Ukr, A War-Gal, F Sev-Rum, F StP(sc)-Bot;
TUR (Patrick): A Con-Bul, A Smy H, F Ank-Con.

NOTE ADDRESS CHANGE FOR ITALY!

Embassy Beat

ISTANBUL--The Sublime Porte announced the sudden death of Sultan Abd-al-Hamid II. Sultan Ali Don, the new ruler of the Ottoman Empire, has ordered units of the first army to occupy positions in Bulgaria to bring order to the violent uprisings there. Additional internal troop movements are repositioning forces loyal to the new ruler in the more strategic locations. Further operations are expected as loyalty pledges are completed. New ambassadors have been dispatched to present their credentials to the major European capitals with pledges of friendship and cooperation.

PARIS--The President of France has declared a three day unification fest. The ambassadors and foreign ministers from Spain, Holland, Portugal, and France have finalized the union of said great nations with the signing of a Treaty of Brotherhood, the Treaty of Free Trade and Support, and the Treaty of Total Coastal Defense. We invite the ambassadors, foreign ministers, and other foreign dignitaries to join in this grand celebration.

Boris World Press Review

LONDON TIMES--Whitehall announced forthcoming naval and army maneuvers in the Scandinavian countries. German and Russian forces are expected to participate in the exercises which will continue through the Fall. Experts in the military field commented that this show of cooperation should discourage any other European countries from attempting any hostilities. However, other experts fear the vacuum created by the absence of forces in the southern region of Europe might encourage opportunism by less scrupulous nations. The Prime Minister strictly warned that such intrusions would draw the full wrath of the British people.

MOSCOW TIMES--The Tsar has begun the call up of reservists, in case the present crisis does not blow over. In a related matter, the Baltic Fleet has initiated a series of maneuvers off the coast of Sweden. These actions are seen as purely defensive in

nature by all accredited military observers, and no governments should fear attack.

ST. PETERSBURG NEWS--In a lavish state dinner, the Tsar publicly praised the Kaiser, and stated his hopes that the peace between Germany and Russia could be maintained during these times of trouble.

Classifieds

Rise all you peoples to whom freedom is life! Down with the Wormtongue.

Let's be Up Front about it, not a bad day.

Brave Italians of Trieste: Have heart, for Italy has not forgotten you.

Turkish White Sale! Monogramed towels, sheets, and clothing at giveaway prices! Incredible selection--all colors, styles, fabrics.

Italy's gonna stab me right good. Please don't twist the knife.

Oh a hero, a hero, my stack of calvary for a hero.

A marvelous new invention, the machine pistol, has been produced in limited quantities for the discerning buyer. This handy device fires and loads at each release of the trigger from a detachable magazine. Imagine how quickly peace through superior firepower can be achieved with this handy gadget. Inquiries can be made by contacting Abdul's Enterprises, Ltd.; the Casbah, Morocco.

BORIS V

AUSTRIA INVADED!

As that great American philosopher, Lawrence "Yogi" Berra is attributed to have said, "It's like *deja vu* all over again." The orders here are exactly those of BORIS IV, except for one letter, "A Ven-Tri" has become "A Ven-Tri" with dire consequences for the Habsburg Empire. Pope Brad seems to be more than willing to back up his spiritual power with raw military might. The comments above apply here also.

AUS (R. Fisher): A Bud-Ser, A Vie-Bud, F Tri-Alb;
ENG (Morrison): A Lpl-Edi, F Edi-Nrg, F Lon-Nth;
FRA (Rezzarday): A Mar-Spa, A Par-Bur, F Bre-Mid;;
GER (Ford): A Ber-Kie, A Mun-Ruh, F Kie-Hol;
ITA (Wilson): A Rom-Ven, A Ven-Tri, F Nap-Ion;
RUS (Shacklett): A Mos-Ukr, A War-Gal, F Sev-Rum, F StP(sc)-Bot;
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VIENNA--The Dual Monarchy regretfully announces that it is forced to exercise its authorization to administer Serbia's interests according to Article 23 of the treaty of Berlin. As of this day, armed forces of the Empire will be sent to Serbia to assist the civil administration to overcome the dreadful conditions existent there. During this same period, the Grand Austrian Fleet will visit Albania.

WEIMAR--Today, amid much cheering and celebration, Kaiser Rolle spoke to the people of Germany promising an era of prosperity and plenty. "A new age is upon us, an age wherein every man shall be challenged to great achievement. No German Reich in history will have seen the advances we shall make. No country shall have experienced the admiration of its neighbors such as we will be accorded. No person will be able to speak of glory without reference to Deutschland!" These words were spoken by the Kaiser as he strode through the streets of Koeln being interviewed by members of the official press. Although the overall tone of his remarks remained very much optimistic, indeed inspirational, this reporter could not help but notice the reticence with which the Kaiser answered questions relating to the progress of negotiations with the principal European powers. He spoke fondly of his connections with Italy and Austria but was outwardly disturbed when pressed for details of his communications with the government of France. "It cuts me deeply that a neighbor so close would choose to ignore our proffered good will," he lamented, obviously feeling great emotional disappointment. No doubt much is afoot which this reporter is not privy to but it would appear that once again old rivalries are surfacing and the benevolence of the German people will be tested to the limit.

Boris World Press Review

BOSTON GLOBE--For the third straight week, Greek fishing vessels returned to port empty, prompting fears for local food supplies, as well as the livelihood of many small fishing villages. As before, the fishermen blame Turkish warships for forcing them from their traditional fishing grounds and even stealing a ship's

catch when they ventured too close. The Greek government is calling for support from the major powers in dealing with the problems in the Aegean Sea.

LONDON TIMES--The King has ordered the Northern and Southern Fleets to make steam for the Norwegian Sea and North Sea for training and as a show of the Flag. His Majesty's Fleets set sail immediately. In view of the unrest on the mainland it is only prudent to send out the fleets to protect the country.

ST. PETERSBURG PEASANT--The Tsar was viciously attacked today by a razor wielding assassin from Rumania. The Tsar had his throat sliced but a fortuitous snowball thrown by his niece, Catherine, caused him to jerk backwards before the arteries could be cut. Despite his agonies, the Tsar managed to order the combined forces of Mother Russia to assist Rumania. Rumania had previously asked for Russian assistance to quell mounting tensions between the country's 50,000 Russian technical advisors and Turkish laborers. The unrest has spread to Serbia where Austrian technicians have had similar confrontations with the Turks. The Tsar is doing well, playing bored games during his recovery. His good friend from America, Dr. Boris was kind enough to be repeatedly thrashed by the Tsar's overwhelming streak of fortuitous dice throws. Hopefully, the forces of Mother Russia will have the same luck.

WASHINGTON POST--Another public demonstration was forcefully controlled by the Turkish governor as more Serbs poured into the capital to protest conditions in the countryside. Transportation is limited to walking and communication lines are hopelessly severed or nonexistent in the impoverished Balkan country.

Classifieds

WANTED: Expanded contracts for coal and lead, send price quotes and possible delivery dates to:

The Admiralty Commissary
109 Penwith Road
London, SW 18 Great Britain

RUMANIA: FOR SALE: Genuine COSSACK saddles, bridles, blankets, calvary coats, hats, swords and medals. *PRICED TO GO! GO! GO!!!* TRADES POSSIBLE. *NO REASONABLE OFFER REFUSED!* Wire Nedeldeek, the Bulgarian, at the Black Sea Coast.

Turkish White Sale! Monogramed towels, sheets, and clothing at giveaway prices! Incredible selection--all colors, styles, fabrics.

Ms Nar to all: I better not read duplicates!

DUNE

Players are R. Fisher, Mikolaj, Saunders, Morrison and room for two more. These folk will find enclosed a copy of Tom Swider's PBM DUNE system from the GENERAL, 20, #4. Due next time is a

preference list of all six factions, a vote as to whether to play the basic or advanced game, initial placement positions for the Fremmen and Bene Gesserit, and a Bene Gesserit prediction. We'll then get started in earnest next time.

KREMLIN

Players are Frueh, Saunders, Anchors, Farrow, and up to two more. A copy of the house rules are enclosed for these folk.

Due next time are your initial IP allocations and your orders for the Cure, Purge, Spy Investigation, and Health phases. Remember, we're playing the Advanced Game rules with the expansion Intrigue card deck (less cards #66 & 67). Also make up a faction name and give me the initials you want it to go by. For instance, my faction is usually the Party of Revolutionary Bureaucrats (PRB).

Party Chief:	A+, 80	+ = ill
KGB Head:	N, 63	
Foreign Min:	P, 61	
Defense Min:	Y, 52	
Ideology Chf:	D, 73	
Industry Min:	M, 64	
Economy Min:	X(w), 53	(w) = weak in that job
Sports Min:	I, 68	
Candidates:	E, K, O, Q, S	
People:	B, C, F, G, H, J, L, R, T, U, V, W, Z	

PLAYER ORDER (for purposes of extra IP allocations) is Farrow, Saunders, Frueh, Anchors.

Your cards are ____, ____, & ____.

MAGIC REALM

Signed up are Chinnery, Shacklett, Cameron, & Farrow. These will find a map of the board enclosed. I need your character preference, where he/she will get his/her weapons and armor, your victory conditions, your starting point, your spells (if any), MAGIC chits starting as COLOR, and first turn orders. Note that we may get several requests for the same character, so plan accordingly for the possibility of your "evil twin" showing up.

Perhaps a word concerning Don's multiple addresses is in order. Don is the peripatetic type, usually cruising around the country. The Cincinnati address is actually a mail service that forwards his mail every week or so. The Asheville address is his "home base" and he tells me he expects to be close to home for the next few months. He also runs a pbm MR variant, "The Castle", replete with new tiles, monsters, spells, natives, and treasures.

1830

Voting on the optional 6 train was 2 for, 2 abstain. It passes.

STOCK ROUND 1:

Morrison <PRIORITY> buys SVN&R (\$600-20=\$580).

Klausutis buys C&SL (\$600-40=\$560).

Anchors passes.

Hanna bids \$230 for B&O.

Morrison buys D&H (\$580-70=\$510).

Klausutis bids \$190 for C&A.

Anchors and Hanna pass.

Morrison buys M&H (\$510-110=\$400). Klausutis gets the C&A (\$560-190=\$370). Hanna gets the B&O (\$600-230=\$370) and sets par at \$90.

Anchors has the priority for the continuation of the first stock round.

PLAYER STATUS:

Morrison: \$400, SVN&R, D&H, M&H

Klausutis: \$370, C&SL, C&A, 1 PA

Anchors: \$600 <PRIORITY>

Hanna: \$370, B&Opc, 2 B&O(Prez)

RAILROAD STATUS:

B&M: 10 available

B&O: 8 available, Par 90

C&O: 10 available

CP: 10 available

Erie: 10 available

NYC: 10 available

NYNH&H: 10 available

PA: 9 available

TRAINS AVAILABLE: 222222333334444555666DDDDDD

Due next time is the continuation of Stock Round 1 (nothing may be sold). Which RR will float this time?

On Deck

1830: Signed up is Bliss, Chinnery, and Puffenberger. Farrow signed up for variant. Alternate Frueh. Need 3.

1835: Signed up is Hanna and Egtvedt; 2-5 more needed. Farrow signed up for variant. Alternate Frueh.

DIPLOMACY: Signed up is Langbert; need 6 more. Alternates Frueh, Langbert, Tran.

GUNSLINGER: Farrow signed up; Anderson and Cameron possible.

THE PLAYERS

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 (904) 864-4959, GENie: J.SHACKLETT1 (SUB DUE)
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 (215) 747-8763 (Exp #12)

Boldface denotes address change.

 DEADLINE FOR ALL GAMES IS 1200 NOON CDT 2 MAY 92

The Bottom Line

This is *BORIS THE SPIDER* a 'zine dedicated to the postal play of
 sundry multiplayer games. *BORIS* is published around the first
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